

Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group

Bureau of Land Management (Colorado and Wyoming)
Forest Service (Rocky Mountain Region)
National Park Service (Intermountain Region)
State Agencies (Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas)
Bureau of Indian Affairs (Southwest, Rocky Mountain, and Great Plains Regions)
Fish and Wildlife Service (Mountain and Prairie Regions)

Final Meeting Minutes June 19, 2001 Cheyenne, Wyoming

Members Present:

Bob Jacob
Ken Van Zee
Ray Weidenhaft
Paulicia Larsen (for Rich Homann)
Len Dems
John Glenn
Steve Pedigo
Steve Hasenohrl
Bill Wallis
Ken Kerr (for Jim Kelton)
Patrick O'Leary

Guests Present:

Lynn Pisano Pedigo (Facilitator)
Tim Mathewson
Sue Muir-Bradshaw
Jim Krugman
Flint Cheney

Members Absent:

Joyce Feeley
Casey McCoy
Don Westover
Darrell Ausborn

Introductions, Review of Pending Action Items from Previous Meeting, Bob Jacob

Bob Jacob called the meeting to order. Participants and guests introduced themselves to the group. Action items from the previous meeting were reviewed and updated.

Wyoming Wildland Fire Plan Action Team, John Glenn

John provided a handout which explains where to locate information such as the Charter, meeting minutes, etc. for the Wyoming Wildland Fire Plan Action Team. (Attachment A)

Ops Committee Chair Replacement, Steve Pedigo

The Operations Committee needs to replace the Chairperson. The BLM representative is currently the Vice Chair. The Vice Chair should replace the Chair as per the Charter. Thus, Steve Eckert should be the new Chair of the Operations Committee.

Decision: The Committee will address this and Steve Pedigo will coordinate.

Review NWCG/GACC Meeting at Portland, Bob Jacob

Bob reviewed his notes from NWCG/GACC 6/7 meeting in Portland, OR. **Members were asked to make comments on the draft of a "How To Guide for Fire and Resources Contracting" by NWCG Task Force.** If you would like a copy to make comments on, you can request an electronic copy from Joyce. It will not be available on the web until it is final. Please review and provide comments to Tory Majors, NIFC, 208-387-5608 or tmajors@fs.fed.us.

RMACC Web Page, Flint Cheney

Flint handed out copies of the Rocky Mountain Area Fire & Aviation Management Webpage Operating Plan for review and approval. (Attachment B) Flint wrote the plan in response to Action Item #8 from the 04/04/01 meeting. He feels the Web Page can be managed by an advisory board and services can be handled in-house.

Decision: The Plan was approved and adopted as submitted.

Discussion, Ray Weidenhaft

There was some discussion concerning Computer Technical Specialists. . .are they mobilized with the Teams or are they a National resource?

Decision: Computer Technical Specialists with I-Suite training and are not assigned to a team are available to free lance and will not be held within region.

RMCC Organization, New Positions & Office Program Organization, Patrick O'Leary

- Still looking for a new Rocky Mountain Coordination Center (RMC) Deputy Coordinator. No offer has been extended yet.
- There was much discussion about where the vacancies are in the various dispatch offices around the area.
- Rich Andesola retired and Reeve Armstrong will be leaving for a new BIA position in fire planning.
- Space for Fire Information Officers has been found to co-locate them with dispatch during high fire season to accommodate media, information, etc.
- Tim Mathewson is one of the new weather people at RMC. (A BLM employee) There was a question brought before group: Can weather people go out on fires or must they stay home to provide critical services. (I don't have a clear handle on how this question was answered.)
- Russ Mann (a NPS employee) will soon be at RMC also.

Weather and Predictive Services, Tim Mathewson

Tim is working on a proposed program of work. (Attachment C) Tim asked about a need for one plan for the Rocky Mountain area. He is asking for Dispatcher feedback and RMCG feedback on an outline for a consistent weather forecast. Website available for good spot weather forecasts: www.wrh.noaa.gov/missoula look for fire weather link and proceed. Ray suggested that not everyone is web literate and would need information faxed. Patrick said dispatch routinely provides faxed copies upon request.

Local MAC Training Schedule and Process, Patrick O'Leary

The proposed time to have local area MAC training completed is: June 1, 2002. Patrick O'Leary and Jim Krugman will work up a spreadsheet that shows training dates by zone, who is the liaison, who is the board chair, and who is the center manager.

Replacement of Type I and Type II ICs, Deputy ICs, Steve Pedigo/Bob Jacob

Considering the recent resignation of Jim Krugman as Deputy IC of the Type I Incident Management Team (IMT), a decision must be made on a replacement. There was also a discussion concerning the need for deputy ICs on Type I and II IMTs. The IOS Working team recommendation supports a deputy IC as noted in the handout. (Attachment D) For long teams 28 members plus 10 negotiated with land management agencies is the recommendation.

Decision: Deputy IC replacement was turned over to the OPS committee. The OPS committee will nominate a replacement to RMCG. A decision will be made on the next conference call. RMCG wants a nomination by end of June.

Region 2 People on Out of Region Teams, Bob Jacob

This topic was revisited in response to the letter from Northern Rockies requesting Megan Timoney be placed on the NR IMT as an alternate. (Attachment E)

Decision: Once again, it was agreed that this is Ok, on a case by case, name request basis (as a primary alternate) but not as a standing member, particularly in shortage positions. Others making similar requests will be reviewed by the RMCG on a case-by-case basis. The only permanent team assignments for Region 2 people will be within region.

Local Dispatch Staffing Levels, John Glenn

Staffing levels at the Local Dispatch Centers needs to be revisited and updated with a new study. Patrick and the Coordination Center will take the lead to update the 1997 study. The new study will be due to RMCG by Spring 2002 meeting. Patrick O'Leary, Jim Rosette and the dispatch committee will work on this. There is a need to identify extra workloads, not normally handled by dispatch, that is slowing them down.

Overview of Six Minutes for Safety Program, John Glenn

John Glenn provided a handout (Attachment F) developed by the Federal Fire and Aviation Safety Team. It is a safety initiative that, on a daily basis, addresses high-risk situations. It shows a daily calendar for six-minute messages about Safety topics. It seems to be working well. John will update information with NASF logo to show state involvement.

Saw Training , Group

Chainsaw training and qualifications were identified as an issue within the Rocky Mountain Area at the Spring 2001 Training Working Team meeting. There is confusion concerning standard faller ratings and interpretation between agencies. Charley Martin and a group of subject matter experts developed recommendations and an action plan for Chainsaw training and qualifications. (Attachment G)

Decision: The Training Committee and the Ops Committee will look at the proposal and provide feedback and recommendations to the group by next RMCG meeting.

Late Note: Jacob received a draft of the Saw Training and Qualifications from the BIA National Office and will share it with the Training and Operations Committees.

Miscellaneous New Business, Group

Incident Business Management

Because there are so many Additional incident business management positions, the question was raised; how does this affect the Rocky Basin Incident Business Committee? (1 rep from each state, 1 rep from each agency) Does RM area have enough (or will be getting enough) incident business positions that we can have our own committee or should we stay grouped with great basin to avoid duplication?

Decision: At the October 23 meeting in Salt Lake, Ray will ask the committee if they want to split or stay together. All RMCG members should let Ray know who all the business management people are for their agency.

Paulicia Larsen reported:

The Colorado Interagency State agreement is done and will be signed by July 15 for rural fire assistance.

Supplements are out from the Business Committee. The Business Committee will meet Oct 23-24 in Salt Lake. Ray Weidenhaft is liaison and will attend and inquire about keeping it Rocky Basin Committee or splitting up into two different geographic area committees since RM area is getting it's own business positions.

Paulicia handed out copies of the additions to chapter 20 of the Incident Business Management Handbook. (Attachment H)

Decision: RMCG will sign off on all recommendations. (rates for pickups, sport utility vehicles and vans to support fire.

Discussed R&R for contractors.

Paulicia, for Rich Homann, Action item 11, Information/Education Committee Charter. The Charter needs to be more broadly focused. There is a Draft line officers handbook either available or coming shortly. The Charter should mimic that. Jim Krugman will get a copy to the group.

Rapid City Dispatch, Steve Hasenohrl

A new dispatch center is being considered at the Rapid City airport. The Governor expects to finalize the costs and layout at their July 10 meeting (1-1.2 million). South Dakota is not asking for funds, now, but Steve advised of a potential "letter of support" request from the RMCG to sponsor the project. The Center will not be a 911 center, however, there is a possibility of state/highway patrol putting some resources at the center.

Team Information, Jim Krugman

Jim Krugman discussed Joe Hartman's team needs. Michael Birchard will fill in for Van Cheney as Logistics Chief.

Jim handed out a copy of the Incident Management Team Performance Rating he developed. (Attachment I)

Discussed the draft of the "Turn Down Procedure". (Attachment J)

National MAC Conference Call, Patrick O'Leary

Patrick will represent RMCG on National MAC conference call on June 25.

Hotshot Concerns, Bill Wallis

Bill Wallis brought up some concerns from the Alpine Hotshots about fire shelters, hazardous materials, etc. There is a new (storm king) shelter thought to be good alternative. Steve Pedigo said federal funds cannot be used to purchase it, and an approved shelter must be carried along with it. It has not been tested, weighs much more and is more costly. Jim Krugman will distribute this information to all members.

S-420, Ray Weidenhaft

NWCG turned down Wyoming's proposal to sponsor S-420 in Wyoming the fall or spring 2002. There is a crucial need for the training for region 2 personnel. There are not many classes and a lot of people needing this course. There's a Southwest session in Oct/Nov in New Mexico.

Operation Wildfire, Ray Weidenhaft

Ray handed out copies of the letter from Christian Wilde concerning "Operation Wildefire". ([Attachment K](#)) The letter is inquiring as to the feasibility of a cooperative, multi-state, airborne, forest fighting task force. Mr. Wilde is proposing some meeting and discussions with RMCG and also the Western Governors.

Fire Information, Ray Weidenhaft

Quality of Intelligence for ICS-209: John Glenn will do an in house agency critique on the Wyoming BLM fire this past weekend. There is general concern for the quality of intelligence and availability of information on 209's, particularly as this is the beginning of the season and lots of media attention.

Miscellaneous Old Business, Group

Letter from American Red Cross, Group

Members, once again, discussed a response to the American Red Cross letter. ([Attachment L](#))

Decision: Steve Pedigo, Bill Wallis and Judith Downing research the issue and prepare a response to be presented at the next RMCG meeting.

This should be a topic for the National IC meeting. Develop a model of what will work in the Wildland Urban incidents between the Red Cross and Incidents.

Schedule for Upcoming Conference Calls, Bob Jacob

Conference Call - July 3, 2001, Time: 0900

Conference Call - Aug 7, 2001, Time: 0900

Conference Call - Sep 4, 2001, Time: 0900

Meeting: Oct 18, 2001, Location: Denver, Host: FWS

Close out, Group

Good things: The Group would like to thank the Facilitator, Lynn Pisano Pedigo, for her terrific job.

Good meeting, got a lot accomplished

Need improving: Temperature of room

Pass out handouts before meeting so people can read and decide on them

This group needs to be more strategic, not so tactical.

Need a note taker other than participants

Action items from previous meeting were reviewed and updated.

List of Attachments:

Attachment A	Wyoming Wildland Fire Plan Action Team
Attachment B	RMACC Web Page
Attachment C	Weather and Predictive Services
Attachment D	Replacement of Type I and Type II ICs, Deputy ICs
Attachment E	Region 2 People on Out of Region Teams
Attachment F	Six Minutes for Safety Program
Attachment G	Saw Training
Attachment H	Additions, Chapter 20 of the Incident Business Management Handbook
Attachment I	Incident Management Team Performance Rating
Attachment J	Turn Down Procedure
Attachment K	Operation Wildfire
Attachment L	Letter from American Red Cross

Pending Action Items from 06/19/01 - Cheyenne, Wyoming					
ITEM # 1	ACTION ITEM 2	DUE 3	RESPONSIBLE 4	STATUS 5	PAGE 6
1	Comment on the draft of a "How To Guide for Fire and Resources Contracting" by NWCG Task Force.	ASAP	RMCG	P	1
2	Complete local area MAC training completed is: <u>June 1, 2002</u> . Develop a spreadsheet that shows training dates by zone, who the liaison is, board chair, and center manager for the MAC Training.	2001	Patrick O'Leary Jim Krugman	P	2
3	Nominate a Deputy IC replacement RMCG. A decision will be made on the next conference call.	End of June 07/03/01	OPS Committee RMCG	P P	2 2
4	Take the lead to update the 1997 Dispatch Center staffing levels study.	Spring 2002	Patrick O'Leary, Jim Rosette, Dispatch Committee	P	2
5	Look at the Chainsaw training and qualifications proposal and provide feedback and recommendations to the group by next RMCG meeting.	10/18/2001	Training Committee Ops Committee	P	2
6	Ray will ask Business Management Committee if they want to split with Great Basin or stay together Let Ray know who all the business management people are for their agency.	10/23/01 Before 10/23/01	Ray Weidenhaft RMCG	P P	2 2
7	Get a draft copy of the line officers handbook to the Information/Education Committee to use when drafting their charter.	ASAP	Jim Krugman	P	3
8	Communicate concerns of the Hotshot Crew about fire shelters, hazardous materials, etc. to all team members.	ASAP	Jim Krugman	P	3

<u>ITEM #</u> <u>1</u>	ACTION ITEM 2	DUE 3	RESPONSIBLE 4	STATUS 5	PAGE 6
9	<p>Prepare a response to the American Red Cross letter to be presented at the next RMCG meeting.</p> <p>Develop a model of what will work in the Wildland Urban Interface between the Red Cross and Incidents.</p>	10/18/01	Steve Pedigo, Bill Wallis, Judith Downing	P	3
10	<p><u>Schedule for Upcoming Conference Calls</u></p> <p>Conference Call - July 3, 2001, Time: 0900</p> <p>Conference Call - Aug 7, 2001, Time: 0900</p> <p>Conference Call - Sep 4, 2001, Time: 0900</p> <p>Meeting: Oct 18, 2001, Location: Denver, Host: FWS</p>		Patrick O'Leary	P	4